



October 11, 2022

The Hon. Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support – Salt Lake City Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Salt Lake Garfield & Western Railway, a short line freight railroad in Salt Lake City owned by Patriot Rail Company, I write in support of Salt Lake City's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program request to support a comprehensive approach prioritizing safety and access addressing east-west connections across the I-15 and north-south rail corridors in Salt Lake City, particularly for people walking, biking, and taking transit.

In 2021, Patriot Rail acquired the SLGW, and in just one year we have seen strong shipper demand in Salt Lake City for the environmentally sustainable freight transportation option that safe, consistent, and reliable short line rail service provides. With the obligation in September 2021 of an awarded \$13.65 million INFRA grant to the Utah Department of Transportation for SLGW to construct a new freight rail interchange, SLGW will be able to support even greater growth in freight rail transportation, in lieu of truck shipment, for the region.

With such future new freight rail traffic anticipated to be handled by SLGW and connecting to the north-south rail and highway corridor bisecting Salt Lake City, it is essential to assure safe and available east-west access for pedestrians, bicycle riders, and transit riders. Equitable solutions that can bridge long-standing neighborhood divides, and accommodate increasing freight growth, require careful and focused planning and assessment. Salt Lake City's request for Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program funding will enable full consideration of all options to enhance safety and community access across a major transportation corridor that separates residents from each other.

SLGW strongly supports Salt Lake City's grant application for federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program funds to conduct a comprehensive planning project to make improvements to multiple east-west crossings between 600 North and 2100 South. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Fenton".

John E. Fenton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Patriot Rail Company

